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Western Reserve and Northern Ohio HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

TRACT No. 15, APRIL, 1873.

Correspondence of Major Tod, War of 1812.—History of Northfield.

The heirs of the late Governor Tod some time since placed the public and historical papers of his father, Judge Tod, on deposit at the Historical Rooms.

Judge Tod's life was an active and eventful one, a sketch of which will probably appear in due time. He had been a Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and on the expectation of a war with England received an appointment as Major in the regular army. At that time he was Brigade Inspector to General Simon Perkins, the brigade including the entire Western Reserve. The first paper here given is the order to secure and organize the quota of the brigade, which had three regiments and a battalion. When the United States raised their first regiment, on the new establishment after the Revolution, it was commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel. Following this example, the Ohio militia, under the Territorial government and of the State, prior to the war of 1812, had no Colonels'. The companies were small and they were very much scattered through the new settlements. This explains why this order was issued to the Lieutenant-Colonels of the regiments, which seldom numbered more than 500 men of the line.

Hayes, Rayen and Edwards entered the service at once, where Edwards soon fell a victim to the malaria of the waters of Sandusky Bay, where the Ohio troops were stationed, in 1812. Tod was soon commissioned a Major in the Seventeenth United States Regiment, to be raised in Ohio and Kentucky. Its Colonel was Samuel Wells of Kentucky, and its Lieutenant-Colonel, John Miller of Steubenville, Ohio.

GENERAL PERKINS TO MAJOR TOD.

WARREN, TRUMBULL CO., OHIO, }
April 27, 1812. }

SIR: The enclosed order from the Major-General, bearing date April 27, 1812, has just come to hand; and in order that

it may be promptly executed, you are hereby requested to issue an order to the present commandants of regiments within this brigade to furnish with the least possible delay their proportion of the detachment called for; and if the corps should be raised by volunteer enrollment, the number assigned to the first regiment is thirty-three, to the second regiment twenty, and to the third regiment twenty-three. But if contrary to expectation a draft should be found necessary, then the number to be raised in the first regiment is sixteen, in the second regiment, eleven, and in the third, thirteen. The officers to command the detachment will be appointed as selected by law. You will strictly enjoin it on the said commandants that they make returns of the men thus raised by the 9th day of May next, and also that they order those volunteered or drafted within their home regiment to rendezvous at some convenient place in said regiment, on Wednesday, the 14th day of May next, for the purpose of receiving such orders as the exigencies of the case and circumstances may then require.

For information you will refer the proper commandant to a statute of the United States, passed the 6th day of February, 1812, entitled "An act authorizing the President of the United States to accept and organize certain volunteer militia corps." Likewise to the statute of the State of Ohio, regulating the militia thereof.

SIMON PERKINS,

Brigadier General 3d Brigade,
4th Division.

GEORGE TOD, Esq., Brigade Major and
Inspector.

BRIGADE ORDERS, 3D BRIGADE, 4TH DIVISION, OHIO MILITIA, ISSUED 28TH OF APRIL, 1812, TO LIEUT. COLONELS WILLIAM RAYEN, RICHARD HAYES AND JOHN S. EDWARDS.

SIR: You are hereby required to cause to be raised within the regiment over which you have command, if they can be raised by voluntary enlistment, twenty-three good and able-bodied men, to serve in the service of the United States as a detachment from the militia of this State. If that number of men cannot be attained by voluntary enrollment, you are required to cause to be raised by draft and on your

regiment thirteen men of the above description, to be taken from the respective companies composing the same, in proportion to the numbers in each. In whatever way the detachment from the 3d Brigade, 4th Division, Ohio Militia, may be raised, it is to be officered in the manner as the law directs. On the execution of this order, you are to make the Brigadier of the aforesaid brigade a return of the men enrolled or drafted by the 9th day of May next. The above order is issued in consequence of recent and pressing orders from the President of the United States through the Major General of 4th Division of Ohio Militia. The detachment from your regiment shall rendezvous at some convenient place in your regiment, as you shall order, on the 14th of May next, when it will receive further orders.

The above orders are to be executed with the greatest possible promptitude and dispatch.

For information you are referred to a statute of the United States passed the 6th day of February, 1812, entitled "An act authorizing the President of the United States to accept and organize certain volunteer Military corps;" likewise to the statute of the State of Ohio regulating the Militia thereof April 27, 1812.

By order of SIMON PERKINS, Brigadier
GEORGE TOD, Brigade Major and Inspector.

HON. GIDEON GRANGER, WASHINGTON, D. C. TO EBENEZER GRANGER, ZANESVILLE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1812.

EBENEZER GRANGER ESQ.:

The Ohio Delegation have recommended Genl Miller for Colonel, and George Tod for Major. I am astonished at Tod's entering the army. If I could see him I could change his mind.

Yr. friend,
G. GRANGER.

GENERAL WINCHESTER TO MAJOR TOD.

LEXINGTON, KY., 28th Apr. 1812.

MAJOR GEORGE TOD:

SIR:—On the receipt of this you will repair to this place for the purpose of receiving money and the necessary documents to place you on recruiting service in the State of Ohio. Its desirable that no time should be lost. The Secretary of War expects expedition in raising the quota of troops in Department No. 1, of which your State forms a part.

I am respectfully, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. WINCHESTER, B. Genl U. S. Army.

JAMES R. MUNSON, CINCINNATI, TO MAJOR TOD.

CINCINNATI, April 26, 1812.

My Dear Major:—The question and preparation for war engrosses the time and cares of all here. The requisition made by His Excellency has been punctually and gallantly met and completed. Cincinnati hill is covered with tents, etc., and troops who were yesterday received by

His Excellency, and will in the course of a few days be in a condition to move with security to the place of destination. Governor Meigs will advance in person at the head of the forces—Generals Gano and Cass in command. Governor Meigs has signified to me his pleasure that I should accompany him and make one of his military family, and also directs me to assure you of his high esteem, and that from present appearances a call on your section of the State for draft, will not be made.

JAS. R. MUNSON.

RENDEZVOUS, ZANESVILLE, OHIO, {
June 17th, 1812. }

I am ordered by Brigadier General Winchester to cause "recruits" to be taught the soldiers' drill, conformably to the rules and directions laid down in the book entitled "Instructions to Infantry," and prescribed by the Secretary of War for the discipline of the troops of the United States.

It is submitted, Sir, if a copy of that work should not be forwarded to this rendezvous. It would oblige the officers of this district could we be furnished with the pamphlet prescribing the uniform dress of the army of the United States. (Neither of these publications can be found in this country.)

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE TOD,

Major United States Army.
ALEXANDER SMYTH, Inspector General of Army of United States.

MAJOR TOD TO GENERAL WINCHESTER.

ZANESVILLE, OHIO, June 29, 1812.

DEAR SIR:—I have just received a file of newspapers from Washington City giving intelligence of a declaration of war, by the Congress of the United States against Great Britain.

This event will give a new aspect to affairs; and it is really to be hoped that it will produce a union of sentiment and action. I have commenced the recruiting service in the different parts of the District—so recently, however, has that work been commenced, that I have received no report from any of the recruiting officers, excepting the one at this place. He has reported to me six, which I have mustered. I indulge myself in the belief that from the arrangements which have been made for the recruiting service in this District, that service will go on prosperously.

You will, I trust, excuse me in the course which I have proposed to myself to pursue in regard to my returns, which is to make my first returns up to, and including the first Monday of July next, so that my weekly and monthly reports will be made with some regard to system.

I have made a contract for the necessary supplies at the rendezvous; rations at 16 cents each; have procured barracks sufficiently capacious for the accommodation of one hundred men, at six dollars per

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man; have employed a physician; vaccination will be strictly attended to. The pressure of the recruiting service has left me not a single subaltern officer for Drafting, Assistant Quartermaster or Acting Adjutant. The duties of these officers I must necessarily discharge at least for the present. I do not find them very burdensome.

There is here sufficiency of summer clothing for 200 men; kettles for the number; tin pans are, not however, furnished. It would help, I think, sir, the service we are engaged in had we even a small supply of muskets. The clothing I have compared with the invoices, and have forwarded to the United States Military Agent, Philadelphia, duplicate receipts for the same.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE TOD, Major.

RECRUITING RENDEZVOUS, ZANESVILLE.

LIEUTENANT BOOKER, RECRUITING OFFICER, TO MAJOR TOD.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, 9th July, 1812.

DEAR SIR: Since my last of the 6th inst., I have enlisted four fine able bodied fellows, and am much at a loss for blankets; and in fact I don't see how we can manage well without some, particularly * * * Would wish to go to some of the small * * * are near this place in order to pick up recruits * * * A sergeant's sword and six or eight suits of uniform clothing * * * be forwarded here, I think it would be attended with a beneficial effect, as it would charm our country buck, and put them in a greater spirit of being soldiers. If there should be no opportunity of any wagon starting from or coming through Zanesville to this place so as to have them sent, probably it would be as well for me to hire a horse and send out there and they could be * * * last in. I expect to get two or three more before the week is out. With due deference and respect, I remain your humble servant.

SAMUEL P. BOOKER.

Major GEORGE TOD.

CAPTAIN ELLIOTT TO MAJOR TOD.

WARREN, July 13th, 1812.

MAJOR GEORGE TOD:

SIR:—Enclosed you have my weekly return for the rendezvous at Warren. Should there be any inaccuracy in my return as to method, be so good as to inform me in your next communication. Lieut. Fredricks has obtained two recruits, when enlisted, or anything more on the subject I have not learned. Ensign Milligan has been here, and returned to commence * * * in Jefferson county.

It is reported and generally believed that the British have lately captured two of our vessels on Lake Erie. One loaded with provisions for the army at Detroit. The other had on some of Gen'l Hull's officers, destined for the same place. I am

apprehensive from the number of the volunteers from this State, and the proceeding to a second draft of the Militia, that the recruiting service will progress but slowly.

Yours Respectfully,
WILLSON ELLIOTT, Capt. United States Army.

GOVERNOR MEIGS TO MAJOR TOD.

CHILLICOTHE, July 27, 1812.

DEAR MAJOR—I am fairly fatigued with forming the new brigade. Bolter went, long since, with McArthur, to Philadelphia. I know not what to advise you respecting your running for Congress. I certainly wish you to take that course you would best profit by, and be most agreeable. My wishes are that you was in Congress. I will duly apprise you of the time of election. 'Tis mail day, and I am in great haste, having come from Franklinton last evening.

Your friend, R. J. MEIGS.

LIEUT. COL. JOHN MILLER, (17th REG'T U. S. INFANTRY), TO MAJOR TOD.

RENDEZVOUS,

CHILLICOTHE, July 29, 1812.

MAJOR GEORGE TOD:

SIR—I have this moment received orders from General Winchester to organize immediately one company of regulars in this State to consist of one hundred men, including non-commissioned officers, and to hold them in readiness to march at a moment's notice. He has ordered that the troops from your district be immediately marched to this place, or at least as many as will complete the company with what are here. You will therefore order all the recruits within your district to repair to Zanesville without delay, and detach and march to this place one 1st lieutenant, one 2d lieutenant and forty privates, should you have that number; if not you will march what you have. I wish you, if possible, to have your detachment at this place against the 10th or 12th of August. Every reliance is placed on your exertion on this important occasion.

General Winchester informs me that the object in calling the company out is to join a detachment from Kentucky to march immediately to Detroit. You will please forward by the detachment a muster roll of its strength. As neither of you have included New Lancaster in your recruiting district, you are at liberty to send a recruiting officer there, as soon as you see proper.

I have not as yet received any answer from General Winchester to the several inquiries I made him, concerning reports, returns, &c., &c. As soon as I do, I will inform you of it.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLER,

Lieut. Col. U. S. Army.

NORTHFIELD.

BY IRVING A. SEARLES.

History of the Settlement of the Township—Reminiscences of Early Times.

In the spring of 1807, Isaac Bacon moved into Northfield, now in Summit county, and making a small clearing, erected a log house on the location where Francis Waite now lives. He had to raise his house without assistance, which he succeeded in doing in about five days. Here this family lived for three years before another white settler came. Their nearest neighbors were ten miles distant. Indians were numerous until the war of 1812, when they left to join the British. There were, for some time, several wigwags on the farm of Bacon. The red men caused no trouble except in their attempts to secure all the whisky about Bacon's premises. One day a number of them came into the house and called for fire-water. Mr. Bacon was not at home and Mrs. Bacon told them they could not have any. They then drew their tomahawks, walked quietly up to the cupboard, found the whisky bottle, drank all they wanted and went away. David C. Bacon, then a small lad, tells us that he well remembers playing with the Indian children. In fact he had no other playmates. The favorite sports with the Indian boys were throwing the hatchet and shooting with the bow and arrow. He who could stand the farthest from a tree or stump and throw the hatchet so as to make it stick fast in the object at which it was aimed, was the best fellow. Mr. Bacon maintains that he could do quite as well at this as his playmates. In shooting with the bow and arrow, however, they could excel him. They had a tact in that which the white boy could never learn. From 1812 dates the last of the Indian race on the Reserve. Those who were once here, and survived the war, never returned, for they inwardly felt that they had forfeited all just claim to their former homes.

At the breaking out of the war there were only three families of whites in the township: Noble, Cramer and Bacon. They gave themselves no special uneasiness about the conflict until Hull's disgraceful surrender at Detroit. News then came that the British were coming to Cleveland by the way of Lake Erie and

thence were to march directly through this section of the country. This rumor sent the greatest consternation throughout all this region. It was well known that the enemy in its marches was accompanied by the merciless Indians, who refrained not from murdering all ages, sexes and conditions. Dwellings wrapped in flames, and shrieks of butchered innocents followed in the wake of the English soldiery. Our three Northfield friends therefore determined to move to Hudson, and thus augment the numbers which must repel the invading army. While Mr. Bacon went to Cleveland to ascertain the truth of the rumor, the others loaded the wagons with what furniture they could and buried the remainder. They had got about three miles out of town when Bacon returned and told them the report was false. The American prisoners taken from Hull were in Cleveland but no British force was there. The party then returned to their homes. One day shortly after this, several white men, including a number of non-residents of the township, were at the house of Bacon, and while conversing upon the prospects of a favorable or unfavorable termination of the war, they saw an Indian standing in the woods near the edge of the clearing. Mr. Cramer went out and kindly told him that if he wanted to save his life he had better leave that town, and then re-entered the house. From the appearance of the Indian it was conjectured that he was a member of a tribe that once lived in Northfield, and that he had in some way become separated from his people. There was in the company of whites one who was known to be an inveterate hater of the red men, and this man shouldered his rifle, left the house and walked slowly into the woods. He returned in about two hours, and when questioned as to where he had been, replied that "he guessed that Indian would never find his tribe." Nothing further would he tell about the matter, but it is the general opinion of those conversant with the circumstance that a rifle ball closed the earthly career of the savage long ere he passed the limits of Northfield township.

The women of the pioneer days had many experiences which ought not to go unrecorded. While the husband with stalwart arm felled the trees and reduced

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the wilderness to productive fields, the wife had no small task to perform. No one felt the hardships and privations of pioneer life more than she. In coming to the frontier she exchanged her comfortable dwelling house for the rude log cabin. In the place of the society which she once enjoyed she was almost isolated from all intercourse with the world. Oft times the husband must be absent from home for days at a time, and then the women were left all alone, miles from any neighbors, in the heart of a vast wilderness. The wife of Isaac Bacon was frequently thus situated. Mrs. Bacon was a brave woman, and the experiences through which she passed seem to us of this day almost incredible. We give but one instance illustrative of the statement just made. Our informant is David C. Bacon, oldest son of the woman of whom we are speaking. This son still resides in Northfield, near where his parents lived at the time. Mr. Bacon was frequently absent from home, and on one of these occasions a very suspicious looking man came to the cabin and asked admittance, which of course Mrs. Bacon granted. He seated himself and inquired the time of day, when Mr. Bacon would be at home, how far it was to the nearest neighbor, and, if she was not afraid to stay alone! From the first Mrs. Bacon did by no means like the appearance of the man, and every moment only strengthened her impression of him. She was undoubtedly as courageous as any woman; but there she was, so far from any neighbor that no assistance from that quarter, in case of emergency, could be expected. But she had one hope, and that was in the assistance of a powerful dog, which stood by her side. From the time that the man entered the house the knowing animal eyed him, as if to say: "You are here for no good purpose." It was now most dark, and Mrs. Bacon very politely told the man that she could not keep him over night and he had better be going. The man said nothing, but from his actions seemed to think otherwise. He stood and pondered a few minutes, and then called to one of the children to come and turn a grindstone which stood a short distance from the house. He accompanied this request by producing a large, ugly-looking knife. The child obeyed and he proceeded to sharpen the instrument. Mrs. Bacon expected the crisis was now at hand and began to prepare for the worst. She took her station in one corner of the room and called the dog to her side. The man soon came into the house and sat down at the opposite side of the room. They thus remained until midnight, neither speaking a word. The man then began to manifest considerable uneasiness. He finally asked the woman why she did not turn that dog out of doors. She replied that she always allowed the animal to remain in the house at night. He then advised her to turn the animal out of the house. She, knowing that her orders to

the faithful creature would be disobeyed, opened the door and told the dog to go out. The animal growled and looked fiercely at the stranger, but would not move. The man then told the woman to sit down and he would see that the dog left the house. He then opened the door and told the dog to leave, but the creature, now aroused, again growled and exhibited a set of teeth which had the immediate tendency to cause the man to take his seat and desist from all further attempts to disturb the dog. The man made no further demonstrations, but went away about daylight, leaving Mrs. Bacon to thank her dog for the preservation of her life.

In the summer of 1826 there occurred one of the most singular affairs of which we have any knowledge. The parties immediately interested in the transaction were Dorsey W. Viers, then a citizen of Northfield, and now a resident of Norton township, and one Robert Charlesworth. This last named individual was about thirty years of age, an Englishman and unmarried. For some time he had made it his home at Viers', and worked whenever he could, as a day laborer. Sometime in the month of July Charlesworth suddenly disappeared. At first but little was thought of his mysterious departure, but after a time an effort was made to discover his whereabouts. The most diligent search after the missing man was, however, unavailing. Suspicion that he had been foully dealt with began to develop itself, and to make the matter still more positive, it was whispered among the neighbors that Viers knew more about Charlesworth's disappearance than he was willing to confess. A hint of this kind was sufficient to lead many to at once pronounce Viers the murderer. But notwithstanding this strong suspicion no decisive legal action was taken until five years after Charlesworth left. During these years the excitement, instead of abating had become more intense, until popular clamor demanded a full investigation. Accordingly, G. N. Wallace, Justice of the Peace in Northfield, arrested Viers January 8, 1831. A trial of eight days ensued, and we wish the reader to carefully note the testimony elicited. It was said that parties going to the house of Viers the next morning after Charlesworth's disappearance, found Mrs. Viers hurriedly mopping up the floor. Viers himself appeared greatly agitated and was much confused in his statements about the missing man. He once said that he saw Charlesworth go, and then, soon after, said that he was sound asleep when the man left. These contradictory stories had only served to heighten the suspicion of Viers' guilt. Viers' hired girl also testified that a bed blanket which had been on Charlesworth's bed for a few weeks prior to his disappearance was missing, and that it was afterwards found with clots of blood on it, under a hay stack. It was also suddenly discovered that Charlesworth was immensely rich,

that Viers was poor until after the murder when he became all at once flash of money. The reader may here conclude that testimony sufficient has already been adduced to hang any man, but the evidence of Viers' terrible crime did not cease here. When witches were believed in, every man, woman and child saw them. So it was in this case. That Viers had murdered that man was believed, and the public could see in everything the evidence of his guilt. The body of a murdered man was found in every nook and corner in Northfield. One man at the trial swore point blank that he went one morning to Viers' door yard, and passing by a meadow containing about twenty acres of grass, π uncut, he saw plainly the trail where some heavy body had been dragged through the grass. Here now is the key to the whole mystery! "Murder will out," and the heart of our searcher after truth is made to rejoice that he is to be no small instrumentality in giving to justice what had long been her due. He accordingly followed the trail through the meadow to a piece of woods adjacent. Ever and anon as he passed along he found spots of clotted blood, and his tender heart went out in loving sympathy for the departed Charlesworth. Coming to the fence separating the meadow from the woods he lost the trail, and therefore conjectured that the murderer had here taken the body of his victim in his arms and carried it to the place of burial. The avenger of blood entered the woods, and while searching for further trace of the trail he saw a chipmunk dart into a pile of leaves. He instantly conceived the idea of killing the poor creature, and going to the leaves began poking them about with his cane—and what a sight met his eyes! There lay the body of the long lost Charlesworth. 'Tis true but little beside the skeleton was left, but those were the remains of the missing man. Thus the witness in substance testified. The lawyers defending Viers asked how he knew it was Charlesworth's body, and he replied that one of the front teeth was broken, as he had often observed in Charlesworth. The court, of course, sent a committee to visit the place where the corpse lay. They came back and reported that while the remains of the departed were there visible they were the remains of an old dog and not those of Charlesworth. The witness would have been put under arrest on the charge of perjury had he not left town. He soon went away from Northfield and never returned.

In the midst of the trial two men from Sandusky came to Northfield and swore that they had seen Charlesworth but a short time before. On this testimony Viers was acquitted, although the public was firm in its belief that he had murdered Charlesworth.

A person, in his right mind, will do a good deal to preserve his reputation, and especially when it is assailed by so serious a charge as that of murder, and Viers re-

solved that the remainder of his days, if necessary, should be spent in search of Charlesworth. He opened correspondence with proper authorities, both of this country and Europe. He also visited in person many of the more prominent cities of the United States. Years rolled on and the search was unsuccessful. One day Viers went into a tavern in Detroit, and to the crowd in the bar room he propounded the oft-repeated query: "Is there any one here who knows a man by the name of Charlesworth?" To this he received the heart-sickening reply—"No." But as he left the room and stepped out into the street a man confronted him and said, "My name is Charlesworth and yours is Viers, and you are from Northfield, Ohio." Viers recognized the long lost man and the meeting was, indeed, most cordial. Viers told Charlesworth that he must immediately return with him to Northfield. The latter for a time refused, saying that he had important business which must be attended to at once. Viers would accept no excuse, and the two came direct to Northfield. Hand-bills were posted up all over the country announcing that on such a day Charlesworth would be at the church, and earnestly requesting all interested to call and satisfy themselves as to the identity of the supposed murdered man. This was a great day in Northfield. The church was crowded. Individuals who used to know Charlesworth would give him some hint in reference to some old transaction, and then he would go on and fill out the details. They would ask him, for instance, if he once kept company with such and such a girl; and when he answered "Yes," they would tell him to go on and describe her. In this way, after a long examination, the public were fully satisfied that the murdered man stood in their midst. Mr. Viers was fully cleared of all part or lot in the matter, and we presume he never regretted the efforts he made to find his alleged victim. The only reason Charlesworth assigned for his strange conduct was that he had passed a counterfeit ten dollar bill, and fearing an arrest he fled the township.

The first school building erected in Northfield stood where Mr. Rianier now lives. The children from miles around assembled at this house of learning, until the number of scholars exceeded a dozen. The first winter that school was taught here was a very severe one. There was no chimney to the house. Cracks between the logs freely admitted the wintry wind, and the building in all respects came far short of the modern idea of a public school edifice. Teachers then were not paid so much as they are now. A lady, for teaching in the summer, received, perhaps, a dollar a week and board around. In the winter a man was paid from eight to ten dollars per month and board. While wages were less than those paid now, the teacher's qualifications were correspondingly low. Reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic, to the "Rule of

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Three," were about all that were taught in the backwood's school. The teacher did not have to bother about "certificates." No public money was available for school purposes, and employing a teacher was simply a matter of agreement between a few of the neighbors and any man or woman whom they might thus constitute "teacher." Private parties paid the bill, and private parties said to whom it should be paid.

The first white person who died in the township was an infant daughter of Isaac Bacon. The child died in 1808.

In September, 1813, occurred the first wedding. It was the marriage of Henry Wood to Esther Craumer. Father Wood, "Uncle Harry Wood" as he is familiarly called by his friends, is still living in Northfield. There is but one other person now living who attended this wedding, and that is Miss Lucy Wood, maiden sister of Henry. The brother and sister are both residing with Mr. C. S. Bates, son-in-law of Father Wood. The Justice who performed the ceremony came all the way from Hudson, and received for his services the then large sum of one dollar and a half. Father Wood humorously remarked that he did not do as it is said one young couple in Northfield did a few years later. Rumor has it that a young gentleman and lady, bent on uniting their fortunes and going hand in hand down life's rugged pathway started through the woods to have the marriage rite consummated by a Justice who lived several miles distant. They, in some way or other, had procured a license, which then only cost one dollar and a quarter, but neither of them had the wherewith to pay the Justice. Here was a dilemma, but they would trust in Providence and all things would be for the best. Fortune is said to favor the brave, and these persons must have been very brave, for they were exceedingly lucky. While the face of the young man had become nearly as long as that of a horse, and his eyes were a look of melting and yet wonderful tenderness, as he thought of the solemnity of a circumstance which bid fair to prevent the legal union of two loving hearts, and while his dear companion, mild and gentle in all her movements, with a voice modulated after the sweetest cadences of the screech owl, was about to whisper in the large ears of her lover some fond word of encouragement and cheer, a "coon" sprang from a small sappling which stood near them and ran toward a large white oak tree. The young man seemed to be moved by some invisible power, and giving a yell, which would have done honor to the greatest Mohawk chieftain, started off in a brisk canter after the fugitive animal. Here history is blank as to details, but, at all events, the man caught the coon, skinned it, and took the hide to the justice and paid the marriage fee with it.

Mr. Wood and his wife did not have a vast deal of furniture with which to begin house keeping, for their whole stock was

one chair with a broken round, three table knives, three forks, three tea cups, three saucers and three plates. They sent to Pittsburgh for these articles. The reader will see that it would not do to break more than a dozen cups and saucers every time they washed dishes. We apprehend that house-wives were then a little more careful in this matter than some are now-a-days. As already stated they had but one chair. When Mrs. Wood wanted to sit in the chair the husband would sit on the floor, and likewise, when Mr. Wood wanted to occupy the chair, his wife would occupy the floor, or a part of it at least. And yet, at what time since have people enjoyed life more than did these good old pioneers, if we were only a mind to think so? How true it is, that "Man wants but little here below, nor wants little long."

Bears and wolves were numerous in those early days. The bears committed no further depredations than carrying off the hogs of the settlers; but this act of robbery was enough to bring down bitter curses upon the shaggy criminals. Mr. Bacon, one night, heard one of his hogs squeal, and going out he saw a large bear, walking on its hind legs and carrying a good sized hog in its fore paws. The hog, perhaps, knew that Bruin was simply caressing him, but he, nevertheless, did not appreciate such outbursts of affection, and he made the forest vocal with his squealing. Before Bacon could get his gun the bear had killed his victim, and laying it down beside a log had run off, his pursuer knew not where. Bacon made a pen of logs and left a door at one side just large enough for the bear to enter, and placed the hog in this pen. He then arranged his gun, with the aid of a string, so that the contents of the weapon would be discharged at the bear the moment he should attempt to enter the enclosure. Bacon returned to his house, and in about two hours, hearing the report of the gun and going back, he found the bear stark dead, with a rifle ball through his heart.

Mr. Wood had a dog which seems to have been about as remarkable as any animal of that or later times. He bought the dog of an Indian squaw and paid a dollar for it. When we say that this dog was a strange animal we feel as if we were but very faintly expressing the idea which we would like to convey. In fact we have not the right kind of language at our command to speak in fit terms of that dog. If Mark Twain were here we would give him the job of describing him. The animal had no color to which any name has ever been given. He was of medium size and his head, in proportion to his body, was very large. His large eyes were overhung by a profusion of eyelashes which at times rendered the gaze of the animal very repulsive. He did not possess a diversity of gifts. He was not a five talented nor yet a three talented dog. He had but one talent, that of barking. He would bark all day and he would bark all

night. There was not an animal in Northfield, from a bear down to a chipmuck, at which this dog had not poured forth volumes of howls. But this was all the harm the dog would do to any creature,—just stand and bark until the animal left in disgust. Mr. Wood was one day out in the field at work when as usual he heard the dog bark. He noticed that the sound was constantly receding, and thinking that there might be some large game, and wishing to rest a little from his work, he started off in the direction of the sound. Presently he saw the dog barking at a large, long-legged, white-faced bear. The two animals were about a rod apart and each seemed to enjoy the other's company very much. As soon as the bear saw Wood it ran off, and the dog, barking of course followed at a safe distance behind. Mr. Wood, having no gun, returned to his work. Soon the dog came back and trotted up to his master, and in about ten minutes along came the bear, returning to see what had become of the dog. The dog's greatest delight was to remain somewhat quiet at night until Mr. Wood and his family were all nicely asleep, and then to go out two or three rods from the house and mounting a stump, send

into heaven and into the woods and into the house some of the finest specimens of his yelps. He had to bark only for a short time before he could call up all the wolves within a circuit of five or ten miles. As soon as he was fully satisfied that he had got a sufficient number of these howling creatures started to take his place at barking for the remainder of the night, he would run under the house and remain silent and secreted until daylight. The wolves, in the meantime, would surround the house, and yelp, to the by no means infinite amusement of the occupants of the building. The dog seemed to have the idea that there must be barking of some kind all the time, and if he could get the wolves to take his place once in a while it was nobody's business. We have not heard that this dog was ever either killed or died a natural death. We are of the opinion that the dog never did die,—he just passed away. If he is yet living, either in this world or any other, he is probably still barking. We hope the people of Northfield will remember this dog. Not every township can boast of such an animal. You may forget the writer, but don't forget the dog.